

FLIGHT JACKET

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Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

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VMU-2 mechs maintain aircraft



Lance Cpl. Derek A. Williams (left) and Lance Cpl. Philip Buttiens remove the engine of an RQ-2B Pioneer unmanned aerial vehicle at Al Taqaddum, Iraq, May 2. Both Marines are UAV mechanics with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 2, Marine Air Control Group 38 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward). Williams is a 20-year-old native of Watseka, Ill., and Buttiens is a 21-year-old New Town, Pa., native. SEE RELATED STORY, PAGE 6. Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

Miramar Marine finds giving to be more rewarding than receiving

Story by **Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver**
MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Some religions call it karma, but for one Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Marine, it's only a small part of the simple morals his parents taught him when he was young.

Cpl. Royshaun D. Wilson, maintenance administration clerk, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, is a firm believer that whatever he gives, he will get in return. He selflessly volunteers countless hours to help other people.

Wilson has taken interest in helping the Muscular Dystrophy Association, a non-profit organization that is dedicated to fighting neuromuscular diseases that affect more than a million Americans.

"The organization always stuck out to me," said Wilson. "They are honest and genuine to the people they help."

Wilson has been helping the organization for nearly two years now. Currently, they are raising money to send children who are suffering from the disease to summer camp this June.

Wilson was raised in Garner, N.C., his father was a pastor at a local church. He started volunteering with his church at a young age.

"We used to give food to people and help them pay their rent," said Wilson, a graduate of Garner Magnet High School. "We tried to show people that there's a way out besides using drugs."

"I'd rather spend time with someone than give money. A lot of times people need someone to be there for them and be their friend," said Wilson.

Wilson's passion for helping other people was not a childhood phase. He continued his service to the community well after he left home and joined the Marine Corps.

"He's a real people person," said Cpl. Glidys Y. Wright, flight equipment non commissioned officer-in-charge, VMFA-121, and 23-year-old native of Inglewood, Calif. "He's passionate about helping out and is always full of energy."

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Cpl. Royshaun D. Wilson, maintenance administration clerk, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, takes a break from work for a photo opportunity May 15 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Wilson, a 21-year-old native of Garner, N.C., is a firm believer that whatever he gives, he will get in return. He selflessly volunteers countless hours to help other people. Photo by Lance Cpl. Robert W. Beaver



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Commanding General
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing



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DoD offers mental health services

Story by Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Misleading media coverage about the military’s mental health services for troops deployed to or returned from Iraq loses sight of the fact that they’re the best, most comprehensive ever provided, the Department of Defense’s top doctor said May 12.

“There is no military in history that has done more to address the mental health concerns of service members than this current Department of Defense,” said Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

Winkenwerder cited flaws in a new General Accountability Office study and said media coverage of its findings gives service members the false impression that they’re receiving less-than-the-best-quality mental health care services.

“The level of our effort and our outreach is unprecedented,” he said. “We have broken new ground.”

Part of that new ground – the subject of the recent GAO study – is a questionnaire that screens service members for a variety of health issues, including indicators that they may be at risk for post-traumatic stress disorder. DoD has screened more than 1 million service members through questionnaires and face-to-face interviews with medical professionals, both before, during and after their deployments to identify possible mental health problems and prevent or treat them, Winkenwerder noted.

However, the GAO study found that just 23 percent of the surveyed service members whose responses showed they were potentially at risk were referred to mental health providers. What it didn’t record was how many of those people were referred to other sources of care or support – primary-care doctors, group counseling sessions, chaplains and other services, Winkenwerder noted.

GAO’s conclusion and the media coverage of it is akin to saying that someone with a sore knee can only get proper treatment from an orthopedist, ignoring the whole spectrum of other treatment options, he said.

“Any medical researcher who looked at this would absolutely refute on the basis of what we know that there is some indication

that people are not getting the follow-up care they need,” he said.

The report comes at a time when DoD is offering the most extensive mental health support in its history, Winkenwerder said. He cited several examples of the outreach being provided:

- Placing mental health and combat-stress control teams in the combat theater to address needs that arise during deployments;
- Sending three special study teams into the theater during the past three years to evaluate combat stress issues and recommend improvements in existing programs and policies to address them;
- Designing and implementing numerous soldier and family support programs that identify problems early and help to prevent them; and

- Introducing a new program to assess, not just mental health, but also overall health, family social and health concerns three to six months after redeployment.

“The bottom line is that we have model programs, and they are working exceptionally well, and they are an example for all others to follow,” he said.

A visit earlier this week to Fort Lewis, Wash., confirmed that these programs are valued by the service members they’re designed to help. “I observed firsthand soldiers going through this program, and this process,” Winkenwerder said. “It’s an exemplary program.”

He noted that commanders and service members are giving it high marks. “They themselves say that the programs are helpful and valuable,” he said.

“We are doing an unprecedented effort, breaking new ground (and) reaching out to people,” Winkenwerder said. “And I think we have firsthand evidence that the programs are valued, that they are working, that they are having an impact from the surveys that we have done of the service members themselves.”

Portraying the program as anything less only hurts the people it’s designed to serve, he said. “It’s unfortunate that this has been characterized in a way that, in my judgment, could be damaging to people’s perception about the level of support that is out there now,” he said. “service members and family members may read this and think we’re not doing a good job. And nothing could be further from the truth.”

Chaplain gives education to couples

Story by Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

“To love and to hold, until death do us part.” A simple statement that most married couples say on their wedding day. After meeting the “love of their life.”

But, how are they sure? When does a simple argument grow into a long drawn out divorce process?

The Chaplain’s Office at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar offers a once-a-month Prevention and Relationship Enrichment Program, which helps communication between married couples. This program takes place the first Thursday and Friday of every month.

The Chaplain’s Office offers different types of church services to counseling.

“This particular program is for married couples and helps enrich their communication skills,” said Navy Lt. Vernon V. Vergara, a chaplain at Miramar.

Vergara said this program has been going on for about five years and its results have been successful for relationships.

“I think this is a good idea for married Marines,” said Cpl. Brandon D. Dozier, a disbursing technician, at Miramar, who was at the Chaplain’s Office to seek advice on marriage.

This is Dozier’s first day of the PREP course the Chaplains’ Office is offering and he found out about it through his commanding officer.

Some service members who are getting married are required by their command to attend the two-day course. Civilian attire is the uniform of the day, and the class is the service members appointed place of duty, said Vergara.

This evolution includes 16 hours of instruction with group activities, said Vergara. They begin the program by taking personality tests to see what the couples have in common.

“This is a great opportunity to work things out with the couples before it is too late, this helps them find activities they both enjoy and offers them quality time together,” said Vergara.



Navy Lt. Vernon V. Vergara, chaplain at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, speaks to service members May 5, during a Prevention and Relationship Enrichment Program lecture at the Airman Memorial Chapel. Photo by Lance Cpl. George Papastrat

Miramarks



Lance Cpl. Kyle T. Katchka
calibration technician
MALS-11

“I think they should, because counseling will give couples a better perspective on what they are about to get themselves into.”



Sgt. Marty Brewster
mechanic
1st Battalion, 5th Marines

“It’s a good idea because they will learn about the financial issues that come with marriage.”

Briefs

Outdoor Adventure Center

The Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Outdoor Adventure Center is hosting the “Last Hoorah” summer camp trip July 21 to 23.

The summer camp will be at Lake Isabella and activities will include Kern River Rafting on the River Hoorah.

The cost for active duty service members plus one guest is \$145. Retirees or reservists with one guest pay \$160. The price for children ages 9-15 are \$110. All payments are due July 6.

For more information, call 577-4150.

Surf’s up with ‘Willis Brothers’

The Outdoor Adventure Center is signing Marines up to learn to surf with the ‘Willis Brothers’ who are known for their surf boards. There is no money involved just a signature. Sign up before June 1 to be accepted. For more information contact (858) 577-4150.

Shopping Spree for Spouses

The San Diego Armed Services YMCA and KUSI are teaming up with local businesses to honor a different military spouse each month with gifts and a \$3,000 shopping spree.

Spouses of deployed active-duty service members with two or more children are eligible.

For more information, call (619) 532-8156.

Camp volunteers needed

The Muscular Dystrophy Association is looking for volunteers to help with their annual summer camp from June 19 to 24, for children suffering from muscle diseases.

For more information, call 577-4150.

Marines awarded Purple Heart in Iraq

Story by Lance Cpl. Brandon L. Roach
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

AL TAQADDUM, Iraq — Two Marines were awarded Purple Hearts May 1 for injuries received during an improvised explosive device attack in the Al Anbar province.

Staff Sgt. James N. Wheeler and Lance Cpl. Matthias E. Knudsen, both with the military police, sustained shrapnel injuries during an IED attack March 3.

“We were out on an IED call,” said Wheeler, referring to the unit who provides convoy security for the Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit. “We were the lead vehicle and we received a stop call over the radio. We then hit a different IED while we were stopped.”

Wheeler was hit by shrapnel in his wrist and sustained several minor burns on his forearms and face. Knudsen was the .50-caliber machine gunner in the turret of the same

humvee. He was hit in the knee with a piece of shrapnel.

“When I got to the hospital I went into surgery right away,” said Wheeler. “I stayed for three days and then returned to my unit where I was on light duty for a month.”

Both Marines are with the Provost Marshal’s Office of Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, Marine Wing Support Group 37 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), and will be deployed for another three to four months.

Wheeler is a native of Vernal, Utah, and is currently serving his third tour in Iraq. He has an 11-year-old daughter named Justice.

Knudsen is from McKinleyville, Calif. This is his first deployment.

According to 1st. Lt. Jered Hemingway, military police platoon commander, MWSS-374, even with the injury, the Marines have adapted well to the environment.



Staff Sgt. James N. Wheeler (left) and Lance Cpl. Matthias E. Knudsen (right), both military police officers with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, Marine Wing Support Group 37 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), received the Purple Heart May 1, at Camp Taqaddum, Iraq, for injuries they received during an improvised explosive device attack March 3. Photo by Sgt. Enrique S. Diaz

Marines earn extra cash with job find-

Story by Lance Cpl. Taylor Poulin

Combat Correspondent MCAS Miramar

Mark Baird, the creator of HirePatriots.com, spends most of his days on the telephone speaking with residents around the San Diego area.

Baird does this so he can inform local employers of the opportunity to hire Marines and sailors to help their business. Mark, his wife Tori, and a third member, Mike Johnston, a professor at San Diego State University, have created and contributed to this website creation.

“This site is great for transitioning Marines as well,” said Baird. “It helps them find a job for when they get out.”

HirePatriots.com is a Web site for Marines and sailors who are in need of extra money can do just that. Most jobs require one day’s work.

One of the main reasons for divorce between a service member and their spouse is financial difficulties. Baird devotes 10-14 hours a day to his Web site to try and help

Marines and sailors with financial problems by helping them find part-time jobs and possibly a full-time job for their spouse.

Service members can type in their duty station and find local part-time job listings. The service member can also post their resume on this site and the employers can contact them.

Baird created the website when his neighbor, who was an active duty Marine, came to him asking for extra work around the house to earn some money.

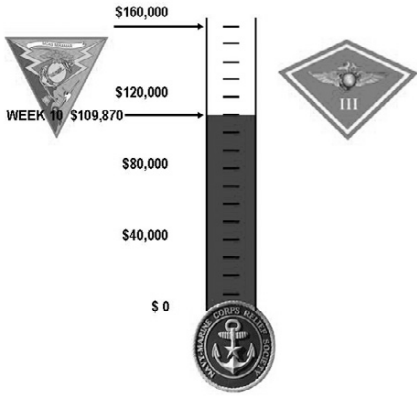
Baird wanted to provide a service that solved financial problems in any way possible.

According to Baird, recent statistics show that Mark deals with over 1,000 Marines and sailors a day.

Due to this statistic, Mark and his partners have had to make drastic changes in their life to keep their nonprofit business going.

Mark and Tori have recently sold their home to provide the funds that they will need for their business to grow.

2006 Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Fund Drive MCAS Miramar/ 3rd MAW Goal:



**See your unit Key-Person
today for details on how
to contribute!**

Flight simulation benefits aviation training

Story by Lance Cpl. Scott T. McAdam Jr.

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps has a number of different ways to train personnel. One of the safest ways to train CH-53E Super Stallion pilots is to put them through a helicopter simulator.

“The simulator is cost effective in a sense that it does not use fuel, if something goes wrong, nobody gets hurt and the maintenance hours are very low, said Blake Biggs, CH-53E Super Stallion contract simulator instructor, Cubic Applications Inc. “The fact that these flight simulators require less maintenance and operate at a significantly smaller cost per hour flown than actual aircraft proves their worthiness to the USMC air ground team.”

The flight simulators serve many functions.

For instance, if a pilot needs to fly in inclement weather, at night or at certain training areas, the instructor needs only to select the proper set up in the computer system. The instructors can also select almost any ship or land area they desire.

“Through flight simulation we are able to reconstruct the vast majority of fleet aviation missions to include shipboard operations, in-flight refueling, heavy lift externals, night vision goggle, all weather instrument conditions and enemy threat countermeasures and defensive maneuvers,” said James Shirk, lead helicopter instructor. “The simulator flight components include the same instrumentation, controls and seating identical to those found in an actual aircraft. Additionally, our helicopter simulators provide both full motion and full visual capability.”

The simulator is set up to be as real as possible.



Capt. David N. Payne (sitting left), administrative officer and CH-53E Super Stallion pilot, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 465, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, demonstrates proper in-flight refueling to 1st Lt. Kevin C. Orach (sitting right), CH-53E pilot, HMM-465. Payne stated during the flight simulation it is actually easier for him to perform the refueling exercise in real life as opposed to simulation. Photo by Lance Cpl. Scott T. McAdam Jr.

All of the digital footage of the sight is present. The windows on the side and bottom of the aircraft are present with the video footage of everything. Even the rotor blades are visible in the top portion of the screen.

“There is no substitute for actually flying the mission, but the simulators do a good job of getting it as real as possible,” said Capt. David N. Payne, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 465, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. “Another huge benefit of using the simulator is the fact that we don’t have to wait for conditions we like to fly in. If we

want to fly at night or in windy weather, the instructors program it into the simulator.”

All of the simulator instructors are former pilots. They must maintain most of the standards of current pilots such as annual flight checks. Because all of the simulator instructors are former pilots, the experience they bring to the training is valuable.

“Our standards are the same as operational pilots in the fleet,” said Biggs.

Another useful option with the simulator is mishap investigations with the overall intent to prevent reoccurrence. Instructors can also simulate a wide variety of malfunctions and mishaps simultaneously.

“We can recreate the very same conditions with any mishap that may happen,” said Biggs. “A lot of times when pilots train, we will give them engine failures, high oil pressure or any other problems that they will most likely run into in the future.”

The Marine Corps is not the only organization who uses the simulators. Foreign military pilots and civilian dignitaries have also logged hours in the past.

“We have had the Swedish and Canadian military use our simulators in the past,” said Biggs. “Recently the Council on Foreign Relations visited the air station and logged hours on the simulator.”

Though other militaries and civilians have used the simulators, the main focus is to train Marine pilots.

With the low operational cost and high training value, the helicopter simulators have proven an important asset to Marine Corps helicopter training.

Prayer vans used for personal meditation



With eyes shut during a solemn prayer, Navy Capt. Donald F. Lerow, chaplain, Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 3, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, commemorates the “prayer van” dedication May 9 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Scott T. McAdam Jr.*

Story by Lance Cpl. Scott T. McAdam Jr.

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps supports the right to practice freedom of religion, but sometimes it can be hard to find your way to a chapel during the workday.

On May 9, a prayer van was dedicated in memory of fallen 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Marines and sailors, and to support future 3rd MAW religious ministries.

The main mission of the vans is to provide Marines and sailors with a sacred space near the working environment to use for prayer, meditation or to worship in their own way. An additional goal is to make these van spaces available to working personnel on every shift around the clock.

“Marines and sailors can use this sacred space to practice free exercise of religion,” said Navy Lt. Dan W. Hall, chaplain, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11, 3rd MAW.

The prayer vans are located at the MALS-11 supply van pad and the MALS-11 maintenance van pad near the avionics department vans.

The vans will be used for personal prayer, personal meditation, and a chaplain’s library that has resource center books, bibles and pamphlets.

“We might use the vans for bible study groups, religious education and growth, prayer groups and special or occasional religious services conducted by a chaplain or lay reader,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Justin R. Robison, religious program specialist, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd

MAW. “In the future, we plan to use the vans as field chapels (instead of or in addition to tents) for Marines and sailors.”

The project came about because of MAG-11 Assistant Chaplain Navy Lt. Richard D. Ross’ involvement with outreach ministries on the station. Ross raised the issue of a flight line chapel with the wing chaplain. The old flight line chapel next to the food court had gone away.

“We want to give Marines and sailors a sacred place to spend a few moments to reflect, pray and study scripture with each other,” said Ross.

Ross wanted to start another flight line chapel, however, it seemed next to impossible to find a building that would work on the flight line. Eventually the idea of the possible use of a container or van came up.

“MALS-11 donated the vans to Ross in Jan. 2005 for the purpose of carrying out this project,” said Robison.

Seven Marines from MAG-11 volunteered for this very worthwhile community relations project to transform the inside of two vans into mini chapels in the working area known as “prayer vans.”

“The chaplains understand that many of the personnel we serve have no religious preference and do not attend church services regularly,” said Robison. “Thus, many in today’s society tend to express a certain personal spirituality that revolves around a person’s busy schedule and personal convenience. The prayer vans seem to provide the perfect solution to this problem for our military personnel.”

Marines keep unmanned aircraft flyin’



Lance Cpl. Derek A. Williams (left) and Lance Cpl. Philip Buttiens remove the engine of an RQ-2B Pioneer unmanned aerial vehicle at Al Taqaddum, Iraq, May 2. Both Marines are UAV mechanics with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 2, Marine Air Control Group 38 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward). *Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke*

‘Pioneers’ give ground forces reconnaissance advantage

Story by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

AL TAQADDUM, Iraq — Echoes of wrenches turning and metal scraping together sound throughout the hangar bay, as the mechanics pull the engine off of an RQ-2B Pioneer unmanned aerial vehicle at Al Taqaddum, Iraq, May 2.

The mechanics with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 2, Marine Air Control Group 38 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), are responsible for keeping their squadron’s UAVs in first-class condition, so the Pioneer can complete its own mission.

“Our main mission is to get the (UAVs) in the air and keep them flying, so that the ground units have live coverage and know what is in front of them,” said Sgt. Daniel J. Bowman, unmanned aerial vehicle mechanic, VMU-2. “We work on all of the exterior parts of the aircraft and some of the interior. We do all of the work on the engine, the main landing gear, the tires and everything that you can see from the outside of the aircraft.”

According to Cpl. Justin M. Fisher, unmanned aerial vehicle mechanic, VMU-2, the Pioneer undergoes maintenance after each

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Sgt. Daniel J. Bowman, UAV mechanic with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 2, Marine Air Control Group 38 (Reinforced), 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward), lifts the nose cover of an RQ-2B Pioneer unmanned aerial vehicle. Although the Pioneer is an unmanned vehicle, it requires the same maintenance programs procedures as other aircraft. *Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke*

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flight.

“Every time it comes back, it has an (inspection),” the 21-year-old Gaylord, Mich., native said. “We recover it, fuel it and check every-thing on it. Sometimes it can have spark plugs that are only good for 15 hours, or fuel and air filters that are good for 30 hours. There’s a lot of stuff to do to it.”

Although its size differs a great deal from regular manned aircraft, the maintenance for the UAV follows the same guidelines of what needs to be checked and how often it needs to be maintained.

“It has the same procedures of maintenance as regular aircraft,” said Bowman, a 26-year-old native of Joppa, Md. “It follows the same pro-grams. All of the procedures, (inspec-tions) and phase inspections, are the same on the Pioneer.”

However, the better side of having a smaller aircraft is the fact that less work is required to perform tasks identical to those carried out on the Pioneer’s bigger brothers.

“They require less man hours than regular aircraft,” said Bowman, a Fallston High School graduate. “Personally, I don’t have the experi-ence of working on a manned air-craft, but I know there are a lot more moving parts on a regular aircraft than the Pioneer and that creates more man hours.”

For Bowman, working on the air-craft has its ups and downs, but said it’s something other than what he

expected coming into the field.

“It’s unlike anything I’ve ever done before,” he said. “Sometimes working on these aircraft has its days just like anything else, but it is definitely dif-ferent.”

According to Staff Sgt. Ronald L. Wolfe, internal operator, VMU-2, the maintainers are what sets the

squadron apart from all of the rest.

“We have guys who work their rear ends off to get these aircraft ready to fly,” the 27-year-old Carlisle, Pa., native said. “If something goes wrong with one, they are preparing the next one to get it rolled up right behind it. Without the maintainers and some of the other people in this

unit, VMU-2 wouldn’t be able to do anything that we do.

“I definitely have to hand it to those guys,” the Carlisle Area High School graduate concluded. “They are what got us going in (two years ago) and what have kept us going ever since. It’s definitely the maintainers.”



Lance Cpl. Derek A. Williams disconnects the air filters on an RQ-2B Pioneer unmanned aerial vehicle at Al Taqaddum, Iraq. Williams is a UAV mechanic with Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 2. He is a 20-year-old native of Watseka, Ill.
Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

Marines answer call for air station security

Story By Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat
MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Safety and security are two important aspects of any military installation. After the 9/11 attacks in 2001, the United States has been on a high state of alert to counter possible terrorist attacks against our country.

The Provost Marshal's Office preserves safety and security on all military installations; it's their job to ensure the gates of military bases are protected.

The shortage of military police Marines due to frequent deployments to Iraq makes it imperative to train Marines from different military occupational specialties to take the MP's place and provide security. This program is called the Security Augmentation Force.

"The Security Augmentation Force Marines are important to maintain base security," said Sgt. Reyna A. Puente, military police officer, MCAS Miramar. "I have been doing this for five years, and these SAF Marines are good to go, they work the same hours as the MP's and are learning the job well."

Field military police with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, originally helped provide security for the air station, but they took their Marines back as the squadron deployed to Iraq.

As a result, some Marines aboard Miramar augmented to PMO to help with security.

"The SAF Marines are not expected to go on patrols," said Puente, a San Diego native. "For the most part they will help provide base security on the gates of Miramar."

The training for the SAF Marines is held at MCAS Miramar.

"It's a four month rotation for these Marines, after that time they will return to their original MOS and we will train a new rotation of augmented Marines," said Puente.



Pfc. Lester K. Harrien, security augmentation force, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, checks a visitor's identification May 9 at the main gate at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Harrien is temporarily augmented to the military police to help provide security for the air station as a result of under staffing due to recent deployments. Photo by Lance Cpl. George J. Papastrat

"I always think it's time for a change, so I volunteered to work for PMO," said Pfc. Lester K. Harrien, a dispersing clerk at MCAS Miramar, now part of the SAF. "I like doing this, it is something different than working at a computer, and it's a new experience."

The Gulfport, Miss. Native said that he went through training and classes on how to handcuff, deal with hostile and non-hostile situations, call for back up, and a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program refresher. At the end of their training the also got sprayed with oleoresin capsicum spray, known as OC spray, "It was great training," he said.

SAF Marines learn how to properly carry and use a 12-gauge shotgun, and are slated to qualify

with the pistol.

This is Harriens' second week working with the military police, he said there is a lot of instruction by the military police to make sure he can deal with any situation.

Marines are known for their ability to handle any situation at anytime, this is a prime example of this reputation.

"The training was adequate," said Spaulding as she checked a driver's identification card and vehicle registration. "They packed everything we needed to know into the SAF course."

Spaulding, as well as the other SAF Marines will continue maintaining base security through July until they return to their command. "I love doing this," said Spaulding.

WILSON, continued from page 1

"I want to get more involved with the organization, I want to work one-on-one with the children," said Wilson.

He has also worked with the Habitat for Humanity organization to build homes for families on Indian reservations in Southern California.

"I'm not perfect but I try to be the best I can," said Wilson. "I live my life with the basic morals in which I was raised. There's no greater reward than helping people. That's how I live."

Wilson takes no personal gain for the sacrifice he provides for the community, but he does enjoy knowing that he has made a difference in people's hearts and minds.

"The awards are nice but I don't bother because it's not about that,"

said Wilson. "The satisfaction of helping people is priceless.

"This is another way to serve my country. Marines do more than fight, we help our community," said Wilson.

MCAS Miramar's Great Escape, Single Marine Program and chaplains are resources where Marines and sailors can seek information on how they can volunteer in the community.

"Marines should take advantage of these opportunities to do something positive," said Wilson. "It's much more rewarding than staying at home and drinking.

"My dad would always tell me that everyday we live is one step closer to death," concluded Wilson. "Why not spend what time you have left doing something rewarding?"

Honky Tonk to Hip Hop, enlisted club has it all

Story by Lance Cpl. George Papastrat

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Enlisted Club is an ideal hang out spot for Marines with a prime location near the barracks as well as a good menu.

“We have live entertainment Wednesday through Saturday,” said Kim A. Cottrell, a bartender and waitress at the Miramar E-Club. “The pool tables are free to play on, and we are getting a new food menu sometime soon.”

From karaoke to line dancing, the E-Club has many vendors as well as discounted drinks. On top of that, it’s just a walk away from the barracks.

A safe environment is an ideal place for any service member to hang out.

“This is the great place to go out and have a good time, there is no risk for DUI, we can relax and unwind from work,” said Lance Cpl. David Delatorre, administrative clerk with Marine Tactical Air Control Squadron 38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. “It is perfect here, we can look out for each other and ensure that we will have a safe and fun night.”

Because the E-Club is so close to



Cpl. Christian P. Lomas, legal administrative clerk, Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, shoots a game of pool May 11 at the enlisted club at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. The E-Club offers nightly entertainment as well as free pool tables. Photo by Lance Cpl. George Papastrat

the Marines’ barracks it offers a short walking distance for anyone over the age of 21 to go out and enjoy a few drinks and not worry about having to drive.

“A lot of people think it’s the ‘loser club’ however, Marines just need to come in and check it out,” said Sgt. Joseph L. Dickens, air-

frame noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 162, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

Dickens is a Marine NCO by day, and on Thursday nights he DJ’s for country night where there is line dancing instruction offered twice a

month.

“I put my heart and soul into my job,” said Dickens. “That is the best way to have success in the E-Club.”

“It’s also a family safe environment,” said Dickens, as he played with his son. “Marines can bring their families in for dinner and karaoke on Wednesday nights.”

There are many tables for families to sit down and enjoy lunch or dinner.

“I come in at least three or four times a week,” said Cpl. Christian P. Lomas, legal administrative Marine, Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. “A lot of under-aged Marines don’t think they can have fun since they can’t drink, but there still is great music and free pool offered here.”

Anyone can come onto base as long as they have a valid driver’s license, registration, and proof of insurance. They simply need to have a sponsor, or a Marine they are going to see, and a contact number.

“Civilians are able to come to the E-Club on base and enjoy the entertainment as well,” said Dickens as he prepared the next song for the night. “This is an ideal place for Marines to hang out, there is no need for a designated driver, and it

Miramar Falcons kick off new season



Cpl. Brentt W. Bean, calibration technician, Marine Air Logistics Squadron 11, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, prepares to plow through practice bags May 10, during a Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Falcons' football practice at MCAS Miramar. This is Bean's second year playing for the Falcons. In his first year playing tail-back he recorded a total of eight touchdowns. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Taylor Poulin*

Story by Lance Cpl. Taylor Poulin

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps Air Station Miramar football team kicked off their new season May 8, with the goal to win the championship.

The team has been running conditioning practices everyday from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The team splits into an offensive side and defensive side. They work alone into their special position groups. The running backs, quarterbacks, and wide receivers work on ball handling, breaking tackles and agility drills.

The defense works on defensive situation drills, along with agility drills. Both work alone for the entire practice then come together for team conditioning.

The team roster can hold approximately 35 players. This is because of the Semper Fit Center's equipment limit. Players can buy their own equipment and play on the team.

The coaching staff for the Falcons is Lance Cpl. Timothy L. Craig, traffic management office, MCAS Miramar, and also the "backs" coach for the Falcons. The defensive coaches are Master Sgt. Bennis L. Branch, Joint Reception Center, and Master Sgt. Alvin R. Mercadel, maintenance control chief, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 163, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

Craig is a first year coach for Miramar but has coached at Mehlville High School, St. Louis.

"My expectation is to win games," said Craig. "I want my players to give 100 percent everyday."

Last year the team was filled with more than

enough talent. They had what a team needs to win. What they didn't have was organization. It seemed the players were not on the same page. Craig's intentions are to work very hard on the things last year's team did wrong. These things entail fumbling the ball and endurance when the games roll into the fourth quarter.

"These first two weeks will be brutal for the players," said Craig. "But they will benefit at the end of games."

Craig's strategies are to use his offense's speed. He doesn't want to show anything to the opposing team. He expects to win the fourth quarter of every game because he believes that's where the game is won.

He wants to use misdirection to keep the defense guessing. Using this he believes the defense will open up for more efficient play.

Craig is expecting many experienced returning veterans such as Cpl. Brentt W. Bean, calibration technician, Marine Air Logistics Squadron 11, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, who is expecting to play wingback.

This is Bean's second year on the team. He had an outstanding season his first year scoring a total of eight touchdowns.

"I expect to score a touchdown every game," said the Surprise, Ariz., native. "I will do anything to help my team win games this season."

The Falcons are undergoing their tryouts and will begin practicing with equipment Monday. During this two-week period the Falcons are accepting any interested players. Craig will have the final say on the team roster.



Cpl. Paul A. Williams, military policeman, Provost Marshals Office, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar reaches out to catch a ball during a Miramar Falcons' football practice at MCAS Miramar. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Taylor Poulin*

Announcements



Is this your Camaro?

The above vehicle has been marked for impound by the Provost Marshal's Office. To avoid having the vehicle towed, please store it in the Marine Corps Community Services or Traffic Management Office lots. Abandoned vehicles at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar present security risks as well as enviromental and safety concerns. PMS attempts to identify and contact vehicle owners of illegally parked, abandoned vehicles prior to tagging the vehicle with a Department of Defense notice. Vehicles are then scheduled for towing three days following the notice. For more information, call 577-1276/4139.

The following vehicles have been impounded and need to be claimed by the owners. Towing fees average \$113, storage fees \$28 daily. For more information call 577-1461.

Vehicle:	License:
Mitsubishi Eclipse	CA#5DAX061
Honda CX	CA#5ERW727
Suzuki GSXR	CA#17E7224
Ford E350	CA#4LNX778
Motorcycle Trailor	VA#CT497383

Miramar Movies

The Bob Hope Theater is located in Building 2242, and will be featuring the following movies. Outside food and drinks are not permitted. For more information, call 577-4143 or log on to www.mccsmiramar.com.

Friday:
6:30 p.m. Ice Age 2: The Meltdown (PG)
9:00 p.m. *Slither (R)

Saturday:
8:00 a.m. Swap Meet (8 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
6:30 p.m. ATL (PG-13)
9:00 p.m. *She's the Man (PG-13)

Sunday:
1:00 p.m. Ice Age 2: The Meltdown (PG)
6:30 p.m. *V for Vendetta (R)

Wednesday:
6:30 p.m. Take the Lead (PG-13)

Thursday:
2:00 p.m. Chicken Little (FREE)
6:30 p.m. Ice Age 2: The Meltdown (PG)

* Indicates the last showing for that film.

VMFA-232 Change of Command

Lt. Col. Douglas S. Kurth will relinquish command as commanding officer for Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 232, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, to Lt. Col. Hunter H. Hobsen during a change of command ceremony May 26 at 11 a.m. at Hangar 2.

Religious Services

The Chaplain's Office is located in Building 5632 and coordinates regularly-scheduled worship services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities, contact the Chaplain's Office at 577-1333.

Sunday:
9:30 a.m. Protestant worship service
11 a.m. Roman Catholic Eucharist
Wednesday:
7 p.m. Baptist service
Monday-Friday:
11:30 a.m. Roman Catholic daily mass
Jewish:
7 p.m. First Friday of the month MCRD
7:30 p.m. Last Friday at Edson Range Chapel

Memorial service

A memorial service for Col. W. M. Frash, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's first commanding officer, will be held Monday at 11 a.m., at Miramar's Airman Memorial Chapel.
For more information, call 577-1333.

Tax Center

The Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Tax Center is open year round to assist service members who missed the April 15 tax deadline due to deployment.

The Internal Revenue Service gives service members 180 days from their last day in a combat zone to file taxes without being charged additional fees.

The Tax Center is located in Building 6250 and business hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
For more information, call 577-1656.

Home Center Grand Opening

Marines are invited to celebrate the grand opening of the home center department in the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Exchange Saturday.

Home center hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
For more information, contact 695-7338.